



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

SDE PRESS KITS
Jeff Church
Chief Communications Officer
OFFICE: 208.332.6934
EMAIL: jchurch@sde.idaho.gov

Refugee and Immigrant Students

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act

"No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance" (Sec. 2000d).

Plyler v. Doe (1982)

"The illegal aliens who are plaintiffs in these cases challenging the statute may claim the benefit of the Equal Protection Clause, which provides that no State shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws" (457 U.S. 202).

Position of the Idaho State Department of Education

It is the role of the Idaho State Department of Education to ensure that all students, regardless of race, color, or national origin, have an equal opportunity and access to public education. Immigrant students often face obstacles as they seek to obtain academic English-language skills, complete high school requirements, move to college or careers, and navigate the financing system of post-secondary education.

States have some funding from the government, and are required by law, to serve and assist these students. Under ESSA, these students serve as a special population and also must show academic achievement and gains as compared to their peers.

Regardless of the situation of student may face, where they come from, or their heritage, educators in the state of Idaho will accept them into our free public schools with the understanding that they have the right to be educated. As we continue working to make Idaho schools safe and secure, student learning is maximized in this type of environment and should be free of harassment based on race, color, or national origin.

Superintendent Ybarra will do all that she can to not let harmful perspectives negatively impact innocent refugee or immigrant students and their ability to learn and achieve in Idaho schools.